

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

The Orwellian nature of this whole attack on Kerry's war record, for example, cannot be missed. The fact is that after serving his country honorably, Mr. Kerry made the thoughtful and courageous decision to publicly repudiate a war which (as many Americans seem to have forgotten lately) is now generally conceded to have been a grave mistake in the first place. The fact that Sinclair takes part in this "black is white, up is down" misinformation blitzkrieg strongly suggests that it does not have the American public's best interests at heart.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.